GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1786
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
REVIEW OF SCHEMES CONCERNING FEMALE FOETICIDE
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed/ monitored its various schemes concerning female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) The Government has taken action on strengthening the Pre-Conception & Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act (PC & PNDT Act) as well as creating awareness on the issue through various IEC mechanisms, which are reviewed and monitored on continuous basis. Some of the steps taken by the Government to improve the Child Sex Ratio in the Country are constitution of the Central Supervisory Board under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare, whose function, inter alia, is
(i) to advise the Central Government on policy matters relating to use of pre-natal diagnostic techniques, sex selection techniques and against their misuse; (ii) to review and monitor implementation of the Act and rules made thereunder and recommend to the Central Government changes in the said Act and rules;
(iii) to create public awareness against the practice of pre-conception sex selection and pre-natal determination of sex of foetus leading to female foeticide; constitution of the National Inspection & Monioring Committee for undertaking field visits periodically across the country, and constitution of the National Support & Monitoring Cell for effective implementation of the Act, training of Judiciary, publication of Annual Reports, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), On-Line Complaint facility on the Ministry's Website, organizing sensitization workshops/seminars, launching of 'Save the Girl Child' campaign, seeking cooperation from the NGOs/religious leaders etc. Further, under the National Rural Health Mission, Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) and Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) are being sensitized on the issue. Also, funds have been provided to all States/UTs under the Rural Child Health programme for implementation of the Act and related activities. A sum of Rs.5.00 lakh for each of the 126 Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha) from the States/UT of Chandigarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan has been provided through the concerned District Authorities to create public awareness on sex selection and declining sex ratio by organizing exhibitions, seminars, workshops, trainings / orientations programmes for PRIs, SGHs, public meetings, debates, essay competitions, nukkad nataks, stage shows etc.